

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 8-15 are pending in the application and stand rejected. Applicants' undersigned attorney and the Examiner have consulted regarding the art on record cited against these claims and, pursuant to this discussion, Applicants hereby present further amendments designed to clarify the patentable differences between the cited art and the presently claimed invention. Specifically, and as discussed during a telephone conference on August 15, 2007 (for which the undersigned thanks the Examiner), the claims have been amended to make clear that the claimed invention is directed to a virtual production machine that bestows movement to images automatically and without human intervention. This is clearly set forth all throughout the specification, including *inter alia* at page 10, lines 5-9, wherein it is taught that "The processing section 10 of the unit 1 shown in FIG. 1, which is constructed of a CPU, includes a data editing section 10b as editing device", and on page 10, lines 24-27, wherein it is taught that "The storage section 15,, stores an operating system as a program needed to control the operation of the CPU." These passages clearly teach that the operation of the processing section 10 (in particular, the data editing section 10b corresponding to the dividing device and the editing device of the claims) is the operation of the CPU.

Additionally, at page 13, lines 13-23, it is taught that "For example, when the data editing section 10b edits a three-dimensional CG character data item in combination with motion data, an additional feature of motion is given to the three-dimensional CG character, in this case, the data editing section 10b divides the three-dimensional CG character data item into configuration data consisting of a plurality of levels, for example, if the three-dimensional CG character represents a model of a human being, for example, the model is divided into configuration data consisting of 17 levels including waste, chest, head, arms, and legs, and assigns to each level of the configuration data vertex coordinate data and polygon link data." Thus, this passage further explains that "dividing the image" as claimed is performed by the CPU without human intervention.

Furthermore, at page 13, lines 30-33, it is taught that "the configuration data is prepared to correspond to the above-mentioned motion data, and the configuration data is edited in combination with the motion data" and on page 17, line 32 to page 18, line 2, that "The data

editing section 10b of the creature data editing and selling unit 1 then acquires the CG character data item from the CG character database 15c to change its format to one suitable for editing.” Thus, the claimed “combining all motion data and all respective components” is also performed by the CPU without human intervention.

As discussed with the Examiner, the prior art on record does not anticipate nor make obvious such a virtual production machine wherein an image is automatically divided into components, motion is imparted to the components independently, and the image reassembled into a moving image. The Examiner will appreciate that such a virtual production machine will enable many graphic artists to quickly and cheaply animate images (such as graphical characters) that they create and sell them on the market (such as for use in e-mails and instant messages) to end users without the time-consuming and laborious effort that animation typically requires. Thus, in view of the amendments presented herein, Applicants submit that the claims as presently amended are novel, non-obvious, and patentable over the art on record, and respectfully urge the Examiner to kindly reconsider and pass all claims to issue. The Examiner is encouraged to kindly contact the undersigned and discuss any further issues that may remain.

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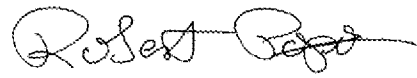
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Respectfully submitted,



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